

care for these refugee children, President Obama must end the deferred action program.

We just read some legislation on the floor a few moments ago. That is what it is—no money for these poor boys and girls until, I guess, you deport them—hundreds of thousands of people who are here because they deserve to be here.

Republicans, in attacks such as this, are resorting to ransoming children to get their way, and that is shameful. The assistant Republican leader, the senior Senator from Texas, who has authored legislation to prevent any meaningful hearing process for migrant children, appears to support the junior Senator's plan. The bill put forward by the senior Senator from Texas implements a process that will send these children back to dangerous places without some minimal concern for their health and well-being. If people were treating animals the way these boys and girls are being treated, they wouldn't send an animal back to this, let alone a little boy or girl.

Neither of the plans put forward by the junior or senior Senators from Texas address the underlying issues. And what is the real issue?

The Presiding Officer has lived in South America. He is one of the few Senators who speaks fluent Spanish. He is a member of the Foreign Relations Committee.

So what is the real issue?

The Presiding Officer could tell us what the real issue is if he were able to speak now.

Why are these children arriving at our southern border. As Nobel laureate Oscar Arias, who was President of Costa Rica and did a good job in an overwhelmingly bad situation, said yesterday in the Washington Post: "The root cause is the violence and poverty that make these children's lives at home intolerable."

We hear that from the schoolboy's message to us. Deporting DREAMers already here or speeding up the process for sending children who need protection back to their crime-ravaged homes does not address the root cause.

In fact, it will only break up families who are already here and ensure that we see these migrant children again in a few months if they survive, because they are not going to stay there. Many of them won't survive, but if they do, they will try to come back again until things become tolerable. Instead of playing a game of hot potato with thousands of innocent children, let's address the pressing needs we have now, which is to treat these kids humanely.

I have had the good fortune of traveling in every country in South America except Belize and Uruguay. Cuba is sending huge numbers of physicians all over South and Central America; China has a lot of money and projects there.

We—because of the stringency of what is happening with our appropriations bills—took months and months

to get a Peace Corps Director. The Peace Corps helps, but without the Director it was kind of wobbly. The Agency for International Development has a good program, but it doesn't have much money at all. We do very little to help those countries.

We have Venezuela. Chavez ships hundreds and hundreds of teachers and oil to those countries, and we do nothing. For a fraction of what we spend on our border, we could help those countries stabilize.

We need to get resources to our Border Patrol agents and others who are caring for these children from Central America. We need judges to hear these kids' cases and decide whether they need protection or need to be sent back home.

The world is watching how this great democracy of ours responds to this crisis. Congress must act now and give the administration the funding it needs to temporarily house and feed these boys and girls and reinforce the infrastructure to process thousands of asylum deportation claims.

We had a big show not long ago where we provided \$35 billion to help veterans. We have spent trillions of dollars in two wars—unpaid for, by the way. That is what President Bush wanted, and that is what he got. He squandered the surplus we had—a surplus of over 10 years when he took office that was trillions of dollars. But now we are being asked to spend a few dollars to take care of these people who have come back in need—as our veterans. Senator SANDERS has been working for well more than 1 month to get them to try to agree to something, and it looks to me as if they are going to come back with nothing.

The conference has not been completed. Why? Because they have to spend money on these people on whom they were glad to spend money to take them to war. But now they are back. They are missing limbs. They have many post-traumatic stress problems, a lot of medical issues, and no money is there.

I am afraid that is where we are headed with this other situation. I am afraid we are headed to the place where either Republicans get to deport all these DREAMers—what the Texas Senators obviously want—or just give these kids no hearings at all and just shove them back. It is not fair.

The American people want these kids to be treated fairly. If the kids don't belong here, let's have somebody decide they don't belong here and have somebody do what needs to be done. But to just ignore the issue and run out of money—what do we do?

What we should do is legislate. We are not doing that.

I have said on the floor a number of times—I repeat—for 5½ years Republicans have opposed everything that President Obama has wanted—everything. That is what they set out to do 3 days after he was elected, and they have stuck by that. Scores of ambas-

sadors' positions are not filled, and legislation has gone wanting.

They want to be able to show there is a Democrat in the White House and Democrats control the Senate, but the American people are not realizing a small minority can stop us from doing everything—and that is what they have done with the so-called filibuster, hundreds of them. I only hope this November people will respond, as I believe they will, and say: This is enough.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Would the Chair announce the business of the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### 45-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE LUNAR LANDING

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, 45 years ago yesterday the entire world was riveted to their television sets—often a television image that was grainy, black and white, and flickering—as we heard the report, "The eagle has landed." Then we saw Neil Armstrong come down the ladder of the lunar lander, and that is when he made the famous statement, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

In the context of that day 45 years ago, unless one was of sufficient youth to not have a memory, anyone will remember exactly where they were and what they were doing, because that was an extraordinary time for the entire planet. This Senator at the time was an Army lieutenant. At the lift-off 4 days earlier, I had been in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, and had gone to the embassy asking if they had a television so I could watch the lift-off in my hometown area of Brevard County where, from this launch pad, my family had homesteaded under the old Homestead Act in 1913, working the land for years, eking out a living which, under the Homestead Act, was a way of populating the country—particularly the westward expansion but that was also the southward expansion, into unsettled lands like Florida. I have a